

March 07, 2023

**MOTION BY SUPERVISORS JANICE HAHN  
AND LINDSEY P. HORVATH  
Proclaiming Public Defense Day**

March 18th, 2023 marks a significant milestone for public defenders. Sixty years ago, Justice Hugo Black, writing for a unanimous Supreme Court, ruled in Gideon v. Wainwright that states are required under the Sixth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution to provide a criminal defense attorney to people who cannot afford to hire one themselves.

In the years since *Gideon*, the Supreme Court has expanded the right to counsel. Not only must states provide counsel to poor people charged with serious crimes, but states must also provide counsel to any defendant facing potential jail time as well as to minors in delinquency proceedings.

Los Angeles County has led the way since 1914 in indigent representation, and since Gideon v. Wainwright has ensured that it provides public defenders to indigent adult and juvenile clients facing misdemeanor and felony charges alike.

**WE, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors proclaim March 18, 2023, as Public Defense Day to celebrate the holding in Gideon v. Wainwright and its constitutional guarantee of indigent defense.

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JH:kc/cc

MOTION

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MITCHELL \_\_\_\_\_

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